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Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda items 150 and 172 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/54/686.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the items at its 63rd and 74th meetings, on 11 May and 2 June 2000. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the items are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/54/SR.63 and 74).

3. For its consideration of the items, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General concerning the financial performance of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from its inception on 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/54/778);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General containing the revised budget for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/54/820);

(c) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/54/858).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.68

4. At the 74th meeting, on 2 June, the representative of the Republic of Korea, coordinator of the informal consultations on these items, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone" (A/C.5/54/L.68), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.68 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolutions 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998, by which the Council established the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone, 1270 (1999) of 22 October 1999, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, and 1289 (2000) of 7 February 2000, by which the Council revised and extended the mandate of the Mission,

Recalling its resolutions 53/29 of 20 November 1998 and 54/241 of 23 December 1999 on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone,

Reaffirming that the costs of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

[1] A/54/778 and A/54/820.
[2] A/54/858.

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone as at 30 April 2000, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 83.7 million United States dollars, representing 39 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes that some 18 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

3. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission, and for this purpose requests the Secretary-General to speed up the implementation of the asset management system at all peacekeeping missions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/1 of 15 October 1997;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

12. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation authorized for the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 under the terms of General Assembly resolution 53/29 of 20 November 1998 from the amount of 22 million dollars gross (21,279,800 dollars net) to the amount of 16,167,100 dollars gross (15,706,550 dollars net), equal to the amount apportioned among Member States for the period from 13 July 1998 to 13 March 1999, and to extend the period covered by the apportionment until 30 June 1999;

13. *Decides also* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone the amount of 65,789,000 dollars gross (66,606,500 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, in addition to the amount of 200 million dollars gross (197,765,100 dollars net) already appropriated under the terms of General Assembly resolution 54/241 of 23 December 1999;

14. *Decides further*, as an ad hoc arrangement, taking into account the amount of 200 million dollars gross (197,765,100 dollars net) already apportioned under the terms of General Assembly resolution 54/241, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 65,789,000 dollars gross (66,606,500 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993, 50/451 B of 23 December 1995 and 54/456 to 54/458 of 23 December 1999, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2000, as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 and 54/237 A of 23 December 1999;

15. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 A (X) of 15 December 1955, the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, shall take into consideration the decrease in their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 817,500 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000;

16. *Decides also* to appropriate the amount of 504,399,051 dollars gross (496,545,461 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, inclusive of the amount of 23,931,281 dollars gross (20,250,873 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 3,741,370 dollars gross (3,328,988 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

17. *Decides further*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 50,168,723 dollars gross (49,387,586 dollars net) for the period from 1 July to 6 August 2000, in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and the scale of assessments for the year 2000 as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A and 54/237 A;

18. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 A (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 781,137 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July to 6 August 2000;

19. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 454,230,328 dollars gross (447,157,875 dollars net) for the period from 7 August 2000 to 30 June 2001 at a monthly rate of 42,033,254 dollars gross (41,378,788 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and the scale of assessments for the year 2000, as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A and 54/237 A, and for the year 2001,[3] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 6 August 2000;

20. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 A (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 7,072,453 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 7 August 2000 to 30 June 2001;

21. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 14 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 3,283,300 dollars gross (3,309,550 dollars net) in respect of the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

22. *Decides also* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 3,283,300 dollars gross (3,309,550 dollars net) for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

23. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

24. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

25. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone".

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[3] To be adopted by the General Assembly.